

WEST LAFAYETTE TRAFFIC COMMISSION

WEST LAFAYETTE CITY BUILDING

WEST LAFAYETTE, INDIANA

TIME: 5:00 pm, Tuesday, January 21, 2014

PLACE: Council Chambers

PRESENT:

Dave Buck	Vicki Burch	Ann Brown
David Downey	Jim Knapp	Kathleen Mills
Karen O'Farrell	Andrew Hirsch	Larry Wood
Boudewijn van Gelder		

VISITORS:

Ben Anderson	Kristi Smith	Michael Susong
Jim Pence	Ron Whistler	Dan Teder
Tim Balensiefer	Josh Nixon	

Professor van Gelder brought the meeting to order and determined there was a quorum.

Ms. Burch made a motion to approve the minutes from the November 19, 2013 meeting. Mr. Hirsch seconded the motion and the minutes were approved as written.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

None.

OLD BUSINESS:

Cumberland Avenue Reconstruction, Phase III: Mr. Buck stated an open house will be held sometime in mid- February to further discuss the proposed construction of this phase of Cumberland Avenue. A press release and public meeting invitations will be sent out soon.

Professor van Gelder asked if a decision had been made regarding the trail along Cumberland Avenue. Mr. Buck stated the City is going to propose to keep a 10 ft. concrete sidewalk/trail on the north side of Cumberland Avenue through Phase III. The goal is to try and keep some aesthetics for the neighborhood, but the consultant has recommended to keep the width and the trail for safety reasons.

Ms. Burch asked if directional signs would be posted on the trail. Mr. Buck stated that there would be directional, as well as cautionary, signs along the trail.

NEW BUSINESS:

Purdue Tunnel Replacement on Stadium Avenue: Jim Pence with Schneider Corporation explained that Stadium Avenue between University Street and Northwestern Avenue will be closed down this summer to replace a utility tunnel on campus. The detour routes will be on each side of Stadium Avenue. Preliminary signage will be placed on McCormick Road to detour traffic to Cherry Lane.

Mr. Pence reported this will be a total excavation project with a 30-40 ft. hole approximately 10 ft. deep. The tunnel will be just south of Lambert Hall. The north/south crossing on the east side of University Street will be closed, but pedestrians will still have access to cross at other crossings at that intersections. Access to the Lambert Hall parking lot will remain open from Northwestern Avenue.

225 Northwestern: A proposed planned development is being planned where Barberry Liquors currently sits at 225 Northwestern Avenue. This will be a five story multi-use development with one floor of retail and four floors of residential living. This proposed development is scheduled to begin construction on May 19, 2014 and be completed in May 2015.

Tim Balensiefer with T-Bird Design Services came to discuss the proposed traffic plan during construction of this site. The developer would like to restrict traffic to two lanes on Northwestern Avenue and eliminate 6 to 7 parking spots on the east side of Northwestern Avenue between Columbia and North Street. Mr. Balensiefer stated they have been working with Fire Station #1 to make sure they still have adequate access to get in and out of the station.

Mr. Balensiefer stated the plans are still being reviewed by the Area Plan Commission (APC) and will be presented at the next APC meeting in February. After the plans are approved by the APC, the project will then go before the City Council in March.

Professor van Gelder asked Mr. Balensiefer what the parking requirements would be for the new development. Mr. Balensiefer said that is still being negotiated through the APC process, but there will be some on-site parking, as well as off-site parking at the West Lafayette Public Library parking garage.

Mr. Balensiefer then presented a traffic plan showing the proposed traffic management plan of the site. Mr. Buck stated there will be barrels placed in the street before the fire station that will help to shift traffic toward the eastern curb line of Northwestern. This will allow the two travel lanes to remain and wrap around the corner creating a larger curve radius. Mr. Buck then stated there has been some discussion about possibly narrowing the lanes near Wiggins and Northwestern in an effort to get drivers to slow down before they get to the fire station.

Ms. Brown is concerned the construction and lane closures will effect pedestrian traffic on North Street from University Street. Mr. Balensiefer said pedestrian traffic would be rerouted to the opposite side of the street where construction is going on. Mr. Balensiefer said vehicle

and pedestrian signs would be placed all around. Mr. Buck is concerned this will cause a lot of jaywalking at the intersection near North Street. He has recommended looking at the intersection of North and Andrew Place as a better alternative to have pedestrians temporarily cross North Street.

Expired Traffic Commission Terms: Mr. Buck stated there are six people on the commission whose terms expire at the end of 2013. Those terms are a 1.) Tippecanoe School Corporation representative, 2.) Carrie Ehresman as a Greater Lafayette Commerce Representative, 3.) a second Greater Lafayette Commerce representative, 4.) an At-Large representative (previously held by David Christian), 5.) Karen O'Farrell as District 4 Council Representative and 6.) Kathleen Mills as District 5 representative.

Ms. Ehresman informed Kristi Smith through email that she was interested in serving again. Also, Ms. O'Farrell and Ms. Mills would like to serve again as well. Mr. Buck stated he would report to the mayor that they are interested in serving again and that the three other positions will need to be filled. Mr. Buck asked if anyone knew of someone who might be interested. If so, please let him know and he will talk with the mayor.

Bike to Work Day: Mr. Hirsch stated that Bike to Work Day will be held on Friday, May 16, 2014 with a site in West Lafayette and Lafayette. For the West Lafayette site, Mr. Hirsch would like to use the former Burtsfield School parking lot. Mr. Wood will look into securing the site and will be in contact with Mr. Hirsch.

Mr. Hirsch made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Ms. Burch seconded the motion and the meeting was adjourned.

NEXT MEETING: 5:00 pm, Tuesday, March 18, 2014, West Lafayette Public Library, Walnut Room.

Respectfully Submitted,



David M. Buck, P.E.
Public Works Director

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